4:Phillips E-4,5 (1956-1957) 1966
AO7 Central Thai AO7
Bang Chan
Thailand AO1



4. The good person is one who tries to behave in an honest way.
5. Do not shove anything at anybody or throw anything at anybody.
6. Do not make loud noises when people are working.
7. Do not spit or clear your phlegm or yawn in public.
8. Do not gobble your food or scatter things on your plate or chew loudly.
9. Do not sit or walk carelessly or abruptly against other people.
10. Do not touch or horse-play with people who are your close friends.
11. If you are a superior, wherever you go, you should look after the comfort of your inferior.

Again, although the list is almost self-explanatory, note should be taken of some cultural emphases that run through several of the items: the stress on behaving properly toward superordinates and subordinates; the emphasis upon motoric and emotional self-discipline, and conversely, the implicit fear of losing control over one's impulses (as indicated in the dictum against horseplay, even with one's friends); the general stress of respecting the inviolability of every person; and finally, the great emphasis on the importance of the body in human behavior and social relationships. Although this last point may not seem unusual, in that the dicta are addressed to children—with whom one would expect much concern over the body—it in fact represents an area about which all Thai regardless of age are sensitive. In general Siamese, considerably more than Occidentals, tend to be aware of physical bearing, beauty, and ugliness, as well as the use of the body as a communicative device. A person's physical appearance is an indication of his character, particularly his moral nature, and kinesthetic modes are explicitly used for conveying love, regard, and as suggested above, disrespect.[2]

It is worth reëmphasizing that the above items are standards for, not descriptions of, behavior. The attention given to controlling body movements is simply to emphasize for the child that people will decide whether he is good or bad on the basis of the way he handles his body, and he must therefore exercise extreme care in its use. Items one, nine, and ten are not meant to imply anything fundamentally wrong with touching another. Most Thai, particularly members of the same sex, thoroughly enjoy expressing their mutual affection through bodily contact: by holding hands, grasping the leg or arm of the other, and in Bang Chan, sometimes by sleeping with one another. In the last instance, there is absolutely no sexual contact; often during the cold season the practice serves not only friendship ——— but the additional purpose of keeping the participants warm.

[2] Although it belongs to a different area of behavior, it is not insignificant that in classical Thai dance every body movement—the configuration of the hands, the position of the legs, eye movements—has a specific, conventionalized meaning. In the oldest, or *Kon*, version of the dance, the only means of communication other than that provided by masks are body movements.

125

32. Last night, when you ate at your own house, did you eat with your hands, with fork and spoon, or with spoon alone? [264]

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9. | Hands | 242 |
| X. | Fork and Spoon | 11 |
| Y. | Spoon alone | 73 |
| 0. | Unascertainable | 7 |

33.a. Have you ever been to a clinic or a hospital? [743]

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Yes | 214 |
| 2. | No | 119 |

b. IF YES: In what various places?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3. | Minburi | 156 |
| 4. | Bangkok | 135 |
| 5. | Other place | 7 |
| 6. | Unascertainable what place. | |

c. IF H HAS BEEN TO CLINIC OR HOSPITAL: For what various purposes did you go?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7. | Treatment or hospitalization | 123 |
| 8. | To bring a patient there | 77 |
| 9. | Visit relatives or friends | 45 |
| X. | Other reason, specify_____ | 11 |
| 0. | Unascertainable | — |

34.a. During the last year, did it occur to you frequently, sometimes, or never that you had difficulties falling asleep? [513]

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Frequently | 73 |
| 2. | Occasionally | 151 |
| 3. | Never | 109 |

b. During the last year, did it occur to you frequently, sometimes, or never that you had a headache? [164]

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4. | Frequently | 50 |
| 5. | Occasionally | 174 |
| 6. | Never | 109 |

c. During the last year, did it occur to you frequently, sometimes, seldom or never that you lost your appetite?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7. | Frequently | 50 |
| 8. | Occasionally | 173 |
| 9. | Never | 110 |

d. During the last year, did it occur to you frequently, sometimes, or never that your hands trembled so as to bother you? [164]

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| X. | Frequently | 17 |
| Y. | Occasionally | 93 |
| 0. | Never | 218 |
| — | No Answer | 5 |

e. During the last year, did it occur to you frequently, sometimes, or never that your heart beat so fast as to bother you?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Frequently | 36 |
| 2. | Occasionally | 154 |
| 3. | Never | 141 |
| — | No Answer | 2 |

52

125
[513] f. During the last year, did it occur to you frequently, sometimes, or never that you had a nightmare?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4. | Frequently | 16 |
| 5. | Occasionally | 120 |
| 6. | Never | 197 |

[546] 35. In your life, how many times have you seen a movie, or haven't you ever seen one?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5. | Ten times and more | 161 |
| 6. | 4 to 9 times | 60 |
| 7. | 1 to 3 times | 75 |
| 8. | Never | 33 |
| — | No Answer | 4 |

[426] 36.a. Excuse me, I'd like to ask about a problem common in rural places all over the world. Do you now have a debt or not?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5. | Yes | 192 |
| 6. | No | 140 |
| 7. | Unascertainable | 1 |

b. IF YES: Is your debt now higher, or lower, or about the same as it was two years ago?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8. | Higher | 68 |
| 9. | Lower | 95 |
| X. | About the same | 28 |
| Y. | Unascertainable | 1 |

c. IF NO: How about two years ago, did you have a debt then or not?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9. | Yes | 61 |
| X. | No | 78 |
| Y. | Unascertainable | — |
| — | No Answer | 1 |

[441] 37.a. Do you or anybody in your household buy certain products in order to resell them at a profit?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9. | Yes | 85 |
| X. | No | 242 |
| Y. | Unascertainable | 2 |
| — | No Answer | 4 |

b. IF YES: Do (you/they) sell things regularly, occasionally or just at festival times?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7. | Regularly | 31 |
| 8. | Occasionally | 49 |
| 9. | Just at festival times | 5 |
| X. | Unascertainable | — |

[241] 38.a. And now, I would like to know a little more about fertiliser. Do you think fertiliser is very good, fairly good or bad?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Very good | 106 |
| 2. | Fairly good | 149 |
| 3. | Bad | 15 |
| 4. | Unascertainable | 63 |